

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSION

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

GREGORY T. POPOVICH, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC REPRIMAND

Gregory T. Popovich served as District Court Judge for Kentucky's 17th Judicial District located in Campbell County from 1993 until his retirement on March 16, 2016. Although Judge Popovich has retired, the Commission retains jurisdiction pursuant to SCR 4.025. Judge Popovich has waived formal proceedings and has agreed to the disposition made in this Order.

As part of a preliminary investigation, the Commission reviewed video recordings of Judge Popovich presiding over District Court on several occasions in 2013, 2014, and 2015. The recordings revealed Judge Popovich making inappropriate statements while in open court. Additionally, the recordings showed that Judge Popovich failed to take adequate steps to apprise criminal defendants of their rights in open court.

The Commission concludes that by the conduct described above, that Judge Popovich violated SCR 4.020 (1)(b)(i) and engaged in misconduct in office. The Commission further concludes that Judge Popovich violated SCR 4.300 and the relevant portions of the following Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct:

Canon 1 which requires judges to maintain high standards of conduct and uphold the integrity and independence of the Judiciary.

Canon 2A which requires judges to respect and comply with the law and act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

Canon 3B(4) which requires judges to be dignified and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers and others with whom the judge deals in an official capacity.

Based on the foregoing conduct, examples of which are attached here to as Exhibit 1, Judge Popovich is hereby publicly reprimanded.

DATE: 7/7/16




R. KENT WESTBERRY, ACTING CHAIR

Chairman Stephen D. Wolnitzek and Judge Karen Thomas recused themselves from any consideration of this matter.

Agreed to:

Date: 7-6-2016



Hon. Gregory T. Popovich